Mc Clellan U. S. Hospital.

Nice town near Philadelphia

Sunday July 12th 1863

Miss Deborah Weston.

My Kind friend

I am in a Comfortable Hospital — taking herewith the Opportunity to write to you in hope that Mrs Weston and Almira little Anna are in a very good health — I have sent you a letter from the Battlefield out — I hope you have recieved it I could'nt put on a Postage Stamp for I had none but I was in hope it would go — I was oblige to leave everything I had in the Rebel hands who made such a desperate attack on our Battery

on the Second day fight in the Evening — We were on the extreme left — I done all what was in my power and was one of the last able to give them the last Canister we had left — I fired 124 rounds of Ammunition in the time from five to Seven p.m. and after Seven the fight became so desperate that the rushed up to 100 Yards in front of us — I looked back and howloned for Ammunition seeing Gilson lying by his Horses dead my Cannoneer had left me no Horse left for the Piece to take off in a case of retreat — I retired by degrees a Canister from the rear — and as soon I got it I sent it right to Gonneys Rebels seeing they droped down before us — but by this time the Infantery the third Corps was running in retreat in doble Quick so that We the Glorious young 9th Mass Battery in Splendid Organisation and for the first time in an engagement — stood the ground and were willing to die for the Country Slowly did We get a Cartrige the men got very thin — My No. 1 Man

dropped the Sponge several times the Sergt and I was left at last alone – I then took the hammer and and worked for some time We kept the Rebels back for a Spell – but Artillery and Infantry playing onto us in all directions – Railroad Caisson & Shell fell thick – I heard the balls coming Stuping myself down – or to the left right just as the came thought the would hit me but went by an inch or so – I saw the pieces of Shell dropped a feet of me on the ground other balls on the Wheels – but God was with me & had Confidence to be saved – So we Artillery were alone without Infantry or Cavalry – our Ammunition was all – at one the Sharp Shooters rushing out the Woods and flanked us on the left before our Infantry had left us – Soon the Shower of bullets came onto us – We were oblige to leave the Ground – but not Corner did we do it until we got the Order – those pieces who had their Horses left were lucky – I had none left only them on the Caisson – & then did not care for anything as to do my duty to save the Piece We were in a bad place for retreat – We had

to go right through the rebels while they had outflanked us — I worked with the Prolong- to fetched the Piece to the Caisson — but one the Center Horses got shot two and dropped — I hooked it ~~it~~ to the Pintle — and by this they Shot me through my left Arm — the blood run all over me I was sweating and the Powder of handling the Cartrige and smoke blaked my face so if you had seen me you would not have known me — The rebels had the Piece in their possession but we got of two and all the Caissons — They would have taken me with them if they choosed but they were so busey to take them of that run to the other Side of the house — where then I was taken to the Hospital in a Ambulance third Corps — The 6 Corps had come up and took our Piece back — So we got them in our possession again — I had to suffer for two days and Nights. No one to see to me I could get nothing to eat — I layed in the Woods with out a Blanket ~~or~~ nor ~~Clothes~~ to lay on — at last I was fetched to a house — and got all I want for the Citizen were coming with Provision &

Ms. A. 9.2.31.7)

July 12, 63

I can not write any more my Arm pains me some to day — I am glad the bone is not hurt — I asked the Doctor this Morning how long he thought I had to lay up — before I was able to do duty again — Well he said my friend that is uncertain perhaps in a few Months —

I am very pleased with everything here everything is so Convinient it is a Splendid Hospital — Lighted with Gas —

While I am Sick I would be happy to see Almira and Anna and some of you — I think often how useful little Anna would be for me to keep the Flys off my Wound — I told the Doctor Here this Morning that I had rather gone to Mass then to stay here or where my family but he made so much reply

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Please write to me directly for I like to hear from you all- how it is in Weymouth

My regard to Mrs Horton and all the rest of you in the house

Please tell Almira that I am in good spirits I wrote to her from Baltimore and I shall write to her to Morrow —

Truly yours
respectfully
Augustus Hesse

— Augustus Hesse
9th Mass Battery
McClellan U.S. Hospital (Ward 10)
Nice town — Philadelphia
Pa

Mss.A.H.2.31.71